Date: March 24, 2026
Place: Dayton SRSRB Office
Format: Regular Meeting started at 4:00 p.m.
Board Members in Person: Jon Jones (WC), Larry Hooker (WW), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), Brad Johnson (AC), Sean Thurston (CC), Marty Hall (CC), Chad Whetzel (WC), Brian Shinn (AC), Don Jackson (CC)
Board Members on the phone: Todd Kimball (WW), Michael Largent (WC)
Others in Person: Kris Buelow (SRSRB), Steve Martin (SRSRB), Reid Camp (SRSRB), _____ Mayor of Starbuck
Others on Phone: Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Zach Seilo (CTUIR), Eric Hartwig (ECY), Chris Kowitz (OWRD)

Verify Quorum / Agenda Approval and Public Comment

SRSRB Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm and confirmed there was a quorum (9 in person, 1 on phone) A motion was made by _____ to approve the agenda as changed. The motion was seconded by _____ and passed by consensus.

Action – A motion was made by Brian Shinn to approve the consent agenda as presented which included two items (1) February 2026 expenses, (2) February meeting notes. It was seconded by Kris Fischer, and the Board approved the motion by consensus.

Discussion Items:

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Lamprey Production and Recovery Program – Zach Seilo (CTUIR) presented on updates of ongoing reintroduction efforts of pacific lamprey in the Tucannon Basin. 4.3M larval lamprey have been released to date using parental based tagging. Lamprey are a first food for CTUIR. Lamprey hatch in freshwater, burrow into sediment and filter feed for a period of time before metamorphosis and outmigrate to the ocean when they parasitize fish. When returning to freshwater to spawn, they do not exhibit natal stream homing but rather navigate to any river that has the presence of lamprey pheromones. The Tucannon has had historical impacts and lamprey have been extirpated for roughly 60-70 years. Zach summarized the spawning and rearing process in the CTUIR lab at WWCC as well as release strategies. Releases began in 2021 with detections beginning in 2022. They've also documented their first outmigrants in 2025. They also documented anecdotal evidence that larvae are attracting new adults to the Tucannon. It will be a handful of years before adults from released juveniles are expected to return.

Walla Walla 2050 Strategy – Chris Kowitz (Oregon Water Resources Department)
Chris provided an overview of the Walla Walla Basin including issues surrounding water supply and resulting conflicts along with the unique characteristics of the Walla Walla being a bi-state

basin which is currently over-appropriated with junior water rights curtailments. Water planning has included a USACE feasibility study, WW Watershed Management Partnership, and Walla Walla Water 2050. WWW2050 is a 30 year vision to improve streamflow in the basin with strategies to address existing issues. They are now working on protecting leased water. A bi-state flow study evaluated water supply projects with 3 formal alternatives including reservoir and Columbia River pipeline options. USBOR is currently doing a basin study.

Water availability forecast – Eric Hartwig, Department of Ecology provided an update on the 2026 snowpack outlook for the Snake Basin. Currently looking towards a drought declaration for SEWA. It requires a hydraulic threshold less than 75% of normal, and a hardship threshold for water users. So far, we've met the hydraulic threshold due to lack of snowpack. A declaration allows for expedited emergency water transfer applications and establishes a grant program to mitigate hardships to water users and the environment. We are currently at 42% threshold in SEWA and 88% for rain and snow water equivalency. They are watching this closely and despite plenty of rain, it looks concerning.

Lead Entity 2026 project grant round – Ali Fitzgerald provided a brief recap of the Lead Entity draft scoring meeting from last week including the draft ranked lists for each funding source. The regular SRFB grant round has 8 active project applications with an estimated $1.6M in funding anticipated. The riparian list includes 4 projects competing for $805,007. The targeted investment list is for statewide competitive funding and will be used to produce a ranked list of large, shovel-ready projects for future legislative funding requests. Ali will send out those lists following the meeting.

Thoughts about priorities for the capital budget (~$45,000) — $45k can be used for things that contribute to projects or can be reserved for staff time. Some ideas could include setback berms, fences, PIT arrays, etc. For now, we are being cautious until the next PCSRF funds come in. Money must be spent by June 30th. Regional theme, protect the budget, maybe consider a small grant program similar to the Upper Columbia moving forward.

Tucannon Programmatic Program budget – April 2026 to March 2027 Kris summarized the proposed budget included staff time, travel, overhead, and project specific staff time helping projects sponsors with design and implementation of Tucannon Basin projects. He will present future project details at a future meeting if board members are interested.

Date and location for this summer's legislative workshop—The group was supportive of Marty hosting again on September 22nd, starting at 4 PM, dinner at 5 PM.

Update on the status of creating new non-profit corporation—the board can still be a management board with a 3-4 member nonprofit to approve expenditures and receive the grants. All other existing WWCC arrangements remain in place. The SRSRB requested that the State Auditor prove why we need to change to a non-profit.

Review proposed updates to By Laws (the conventional bylaws, not the version regarding forming a nonprofit- Changes include definitions for board representatives not being required to reside in the county they represent. Also notice of Jerry Hendrickson resigning from the SRSRB.

Update – Announcements and Items of Interest

Executive committee call actions: No actions

Approve prioritized list of proposed expenses for state-capital funds— Deferred.

Approve BPA Tucannon Programmatic Budget FY 27— Brian Shinn made a motion to approve the FY 27 BPA budget as presented. Larry Hooker seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

Approve revisions to the March 2024 Bylaws— Larry Hooker made a motion to approve revisions to the March 2024 bylaws as presented. Brian Shinn seconded and the motion passed y consensus.

Approve May 26th, 2026 for the next board meeting to be in Dayton, WA at 410B E Main Street starting at 6PM.

_____ made a motion to approve May 26th, 2026 for the next SRSRB meeting at the Dayton SRSRB office at 6 pm with the option to move to Clarkston WWCC pending confirmation with Jerry Hendrickson. Kris Fischer seconded and the motion passed by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 by Vice Chair Johnson.

Insert Billy Bowles Signature once approved by the board:

Date: _____, 2025